

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

A terminal disclaimer with respect to Appln. No. 10/500,842 is being filed herewith. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the provisional double-patenting rejection of claims 1, 6-8, 11, 12, 17 and 18 as set out in Section 3 of the action.

Claims 25 and 26 have been canceled without prejudice. This obviates the Examiner's Section 112, 2nd ¶ rejection of these claims as set out in Section 5 of the action.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 17-19, 21, 24 and 25 as set out in Section 7 of the action, in view of the foregoing amendment to claim 17. More specifically, the substance of claim 20, indicated to be allowable, has been added to claim 17. In view of this amendment, claim 17 should be allowable. The same is true for claims 18, 19, 21 and 24 in view of their dependence on claim 17.

Claim 20 has been canceled as redundant.

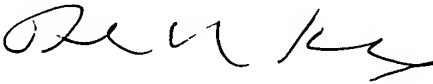
All other claims (claims 2-5, 9, 10, 13-16, 22 and 23) have been indicated to be allowable (Section 8 of the action).

It is noted that the dependence of claim 22 has been suitably amended in view of the cancellation of claim 20.

The application is thought to be in allowable condition. Accordingly, allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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